



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

14 JANUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Merced – Three Escaped California Inmates Recaptured, Manhunt Still On

(U) Three of six inmates who escaped from a California prison in a late-night jailbreak were captured Tuesday, according to authorities. Fabian Cruz Roman, 22, and Andres Nunez Rodriguez, 21, were "apprehended without incident" in the San Diego area and were taken into custody Tuesday night, the Merced County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. Roman was facing murder charges, and Rodriguez was in jail on attempted murder charges, police said. Edgar Eduardo Ventura, 22, was captured earlier in the day. He is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, participation in a criminal street gang, and violation of probation. Officers from local, state, and federal agencies are assisting in the search for the three suspects still on the loose. They are advising the community to remain vigilant, and not approach the prisoners if they are spotted, as they are considered armed and dangerous.

SOURCE: 13 January 2021, [Fox News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District Of Columbia – Feds Warn Extremists May be Emboldened to Carry Out Additional Attacks

(U) Washington – Federal law enforcement officials are warning that domestic extremists are likely more emboldened to carry out attacks on President-elect Joe Biden's upcoming inauguration and throughout 2021 after seeing the success of last week's siege on the US Capitol. The threat is further complicating an already monumental challenge facing law enforcement agencies tasked with securing Washington in the coming days. Federal law enforcement agencies, in a series of bulletins and calls with local partners this week, have issued an urgent call for assistance in securing the nation's capital as the inauguration nears, and painted a dire picture of potential threats leading up to 20 January.

SOURCE: 14 January 2021, [CNN](#)

(U) Massachusetts – US Charges MIT Professor for Not Disclosing Chinese Ties While Seeking Grants

(U) Boston – A mechanical engineering professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was arrested on US charges that he failed to disclose his ties to the Chinese government when seeking federal grant money. Federal prosecutors in Boston on Thursday charged Gang Chen, a Chinese-born mechanical engineer and nanotechnologist, with defrauding the US Department of Energy when seeking grants and failing to disclose on a tax return a China-based bank account.

SOURCE: 14 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Michigan – Judge Denies Bond for Alleged Leader in Whitmer Kidnapping Plot

(U) Grand Rapids – A Delaware man described by prosecutors as "probably the most committed violent extremist" of those accused in the Whitmer kidnapping plot has been denied bond. US District Court Judge Sally Berens on Wednesday, 13 January ruled that giving 45-year-old Barry Croft Jr. bond would be too much of a risk to the community, particularly given his anti-police statements and apparent ability to construct improvised explosives. After a lengthy delay because of COVID-19-related issues, Croft appeared in a Grand Rapids courtroom for his first Michigan hearing since being arrested on 8 October. He is one of six men facing federal charges in an alleged plot to kidnap Governor Gretchen Whitmer over COVID-19 lockdowns and other issues.

SOURCE: 13 January 2021, [Mlive.com](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Minnesota – Man Pleads Guilty to Providing Material Support to ISIS

(U) Minneapolis – The Justice Department today announced the guilty plea of Abdelhamid Al-Madioum, 24, to one count of providing material support and resources, namely personnel and services, to the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), a designated foreign terrorist organization. Al-Madioum, a native of Morocco and naturalized US citizen, previously had been detained overseas by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and was subsequently transferred into FBI custody and returned to Minnesota. According to the defendant's guilty plea and documents filed with the court, on 23 June 2015, Al-Madioum and his family traveled from St. Louis Park, Minnesota to Casablanca, Morocco, to visit their extended family. On 8 July 2015, Al-Madioum left Morocco and traveled to Istanbul, Turkey. There, Al-Madioum met up with members of ISIS who aided his border-crossing into Syria. Once in Syria, the defendant joined other members of ISIS who brought him to Mosul, Iraq.

SOURCE: 12 January 2021, [DOJ](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) United Arab Emirates – Telegram Purges Extremist Content

(U) Dubai – Telegram, a Dubai-based chat app that has attracted a surge of new users, including some far-right Trump supporters fleeing purges at other sites, has begun a rare purge of American extremist content. At least 15 extremist Telegram channels, akin to chatrooms where the founders have moderating power, have recently been banned, and content has been censored on several others. Some pro-Trump zealots have moved to Telegram in recent days to plan violence on 20 January, the day Joe Biden is scheduled to be inaugurated.

SOURCE: 14 January 2021, [NBC News](#)

(U) France – Repatriates Seven Children from Jihadist Camp in Syria

(U) Paris – France said on Wednesday it had brought home seven children of French jihadists from northeast Syria, continuing a highly sensitive repatriation process begun after the toppling of the ISIS's self-proclaimed caliphate. The children aged between two and 11 and "particularly vulnerable," were handed over to judicial authorities and taken into care by social services, the foreign ministry said. They had been living in the Kurdish-run al-Roj and al-Hol camps, where thousands of relatives of ISIS fighters and sympathizers have been held since the 2019 defeat of ISIS in Syria. France has so far repatriated 35 children, many of them orphans.

SOURCE: 12 January 2021, [France 24](#)

(U) Mali – Three UN Peacekeepers Killed, Six Wounded in Mali Attack

(U) Timbuktu – Three United Nations peacekeepers were killed and six wounded in central Mali on Wednesday after a convoy struck an explosive device and came under fire, the UN said in a statement. It was not clear who carried out the attack about 12 miles north of the town of Bambara-Maoudé in the Timbuktu region. Islamist groups linked to al-Qa'ida and ISIS operate in the region and have made much of the West African country ungovernable. The killed peacekeepers were from Ivory Coast, the country's defense ministry said in a statement.

SOURCE: 12 January 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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